

INNER CIRCLE APRIL

#4/ 2023

This month
Productive vs Receptive
Language Learning

innovative LANGUAGE.COM

WELCOME TO THE INNER CIRCLE

Welcome to the Inner Circle. This is the monthly no-holds-barred newsletter giving you tried and tested learning methods to help you reach your language goals this year.

Last month, you learned about the power of signing up for a proficiency test... as a way to get yourself motivated. While you don't have to follow this exact route, there is an underlying lesson: having external commitments really ramps up motivation. Also, the amount you care also goes when you pay money. In my case, signing up for in-person classes does that for me.

And for April, Kyejin focused on receptive learning, whereas I focused on productive side of things. What do these mean?

PETER'S PROGRESS

THIS PAST MONTH

- **Hit the goal of 5+ hours of French**
- **More focused on active learning**

This month, I focused more so on producing the language - meaning speaking or writing. Mostly speaking for me. You can also call this active learning or output. The reason for that is... I generally enjoy interacting with the teacher and having good conversations instead of following the old "How are you?" "I am fine and you" patterns that beginners stick with.

Here are some examples that I use to shake up conversations:

Teacher: How are you?

Me: Physically, well. Spiritually, a little empty.

Teacher: What's wrong??

Teacher: How are you?

Me: Absolutely terrible!

Teacher: why?

Teacher: Let me guess, not well today?

Me: Today, I am having the best day!

Teacher: Really?? Tell me more.

Teacher: How are you today?

Me: Really upset.

Each one of these responses is a kind of an extreme that is meant to elicit a response. General human nature would incline most people to inquire further.

Teacher: How are you today?

Me: I cannot solve this problem.

Teacher: What problem?

Now, the tricky thing here is the responses are a

THIS PAST MONTH

bit complex linguistically. So it is important to put in the work beforehand. Write out the script of the conversation. Practice it, and then go through it in the class.

For example:

Teacher: How are you today?

Me: Not so good. I cannot solve a problem.

Teacher: What's the problem?

Me: I have no time to exercise.

Teacher: Oh. Hmmm....

Me: Do you exercise?

Teacher: Yes. [hard French]

Me: Wait, please. Again, please. Slow, please.

not, just ask to stop there and repeat.

Of course, the downside is, I end up going above my level... and into topics that I don't have French grammar and vocabulary and can't handle.

The conversation can be controlled, and when it is

KYEJIN'S PROGRESS

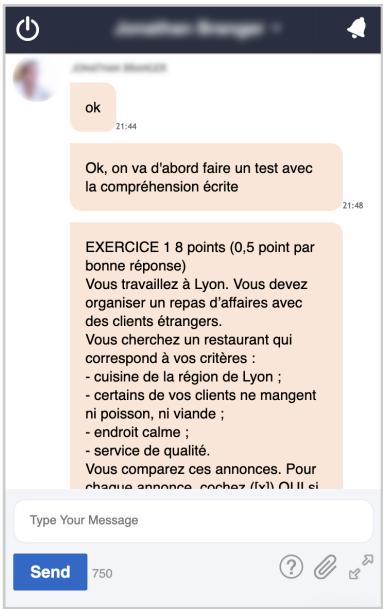
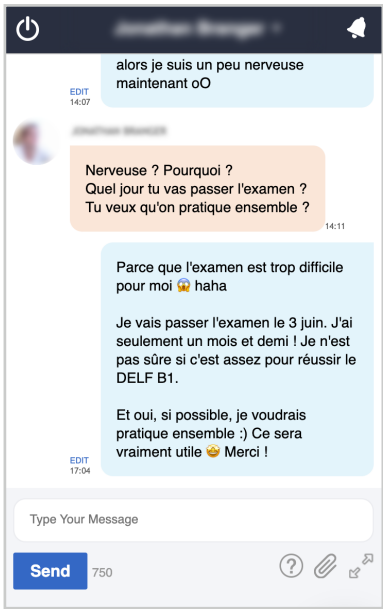
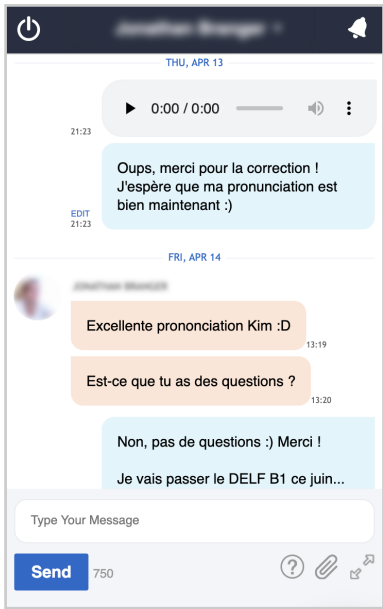
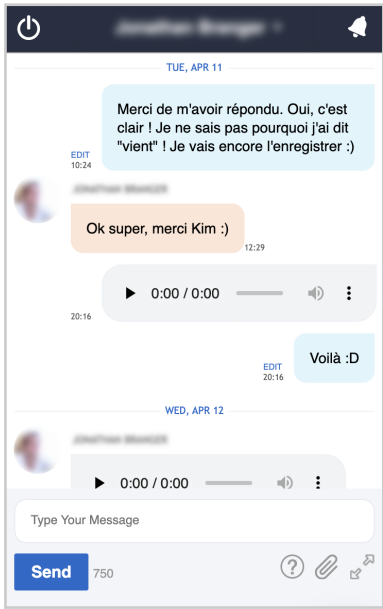
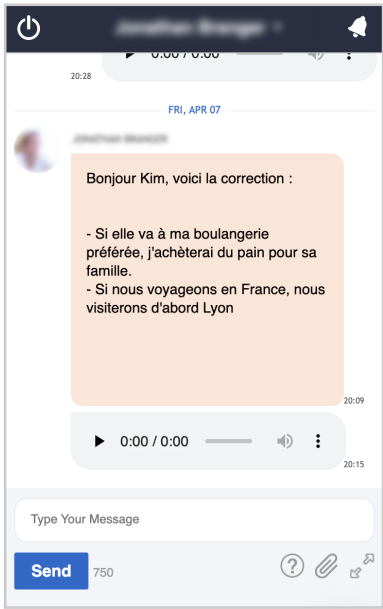
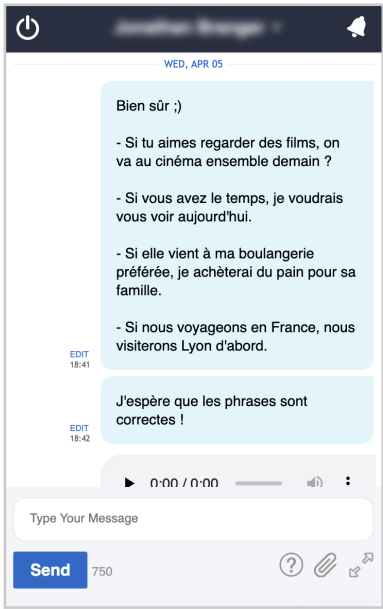
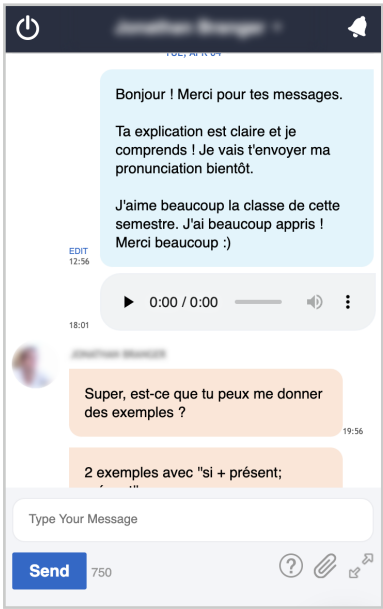
KYEJIN'S APRIL

April										
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
							1			
Morning										
Afternoon										
Evening							7PM: Meeting a French friend	3:00		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
Morning			9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30		
Afternoon										
Evening		8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: Meeting a French friend
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
Morning			9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30		
Afternoon										
Evening		8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: Meeting a French friend
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Morning			9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30		
Afternoon	2PM: French Lesson	1:00								
Evening			7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30		
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
Morning			9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30	9AM: Commute - Video Lessons	0:30		
Afternoon										
Evening		8PM: French Lesson	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: French School	1:00	7PM: Commute - Review	0:30	7PM: Meeting a French friend
	30									
Morning										
Afternoon										
Evening										
33:30:00	1:00:00	3:00:00	4:00:00	6:00:00	4:00:00	6:30:00	9:00:00			

THIS PAST MONTH

- **32.5 hours of French**
- **Mostly passive learning**
- **Reached goal: Reviewing all B1 grammar rules**

Unlike my approach, Kyejin was more so on the receptive (or passive) learning side of things. Also known as input. And given that Kyejin puts in 32.5 hours a month, the easiest way to hit that number would be to do a lot of input (just passively listening or reading). This is good for 1) multi-tasking, 2) making the most of your time, and 3) for reading/listening, but of course, it won't get you speaking.



TAKEAWAYS FOR YOU

Are you an active or passive learner? Do you focus on receptive learning or... are you on the productive side of things? Each side has its good and bad points and complements the other, so it's always best to do both.

Passive Learning - Receptive (Listening and reading)	Active Learning - Productive (Speaking and writing)
• Good as a way to start learning and maintain the routine. • Easy to do and does not require a lot of time/energy • Good for listening and reading • Good when multitasking • Good for reinforcing/reviewing words and grammar rules (but may not be as strong as actually using words) • Can easily forget what you've learned	• Good for speaking and writing skills • A bit tougher to do as it requires action (speaking/writing) • Does not require time but does require energy • Can't be done while multitasking • Better for retention (better than just passively listening) • Hard to use what you've recently learned

However, it's very easy to get stuck in the passive learning side of things.

So, if you find yourself mostly just listening and reading...

...you'll still need to practice the output (speaking and writing) if you ever want to speak the language.

So, here are a few ways you can transform receptive/passive into productive/active learning.

1. If you're reading (with our lesson transcripts or lesson dialogues), **then read out loud.** Or, at the very least, try to mouth out the words. That way, you're practicing speaking.

2. Increase your speed. As you read a sentence aloud, you'll want to start slow just so you can get through and pronounce all the words. On the next re-read, go a little faster. And faster on the 3rd re-read. Why? This will help you speak faster too.

3. If you're listening, shadow what you hear. Shadow means repeat out loud. You can do this with the Line-

by-Line Dialogue section of each lesson. Just press on the audio icon for each line, listen to it, then repeat afterward. You can do this with the lesson itself, but it's much easier to shadow one line at a time, where you're not interrupted by the next line of dialogue.

4. Use our Voice Recording Tool. You'll find this in the Dialogue section of every lesson. First, you'll hear the native speaker and then repeat what they say. Then, you can listen to the 2 side by side.

5. Send recordings to your Premium PLUS teacher. Similar to #4, you can record yourself reciting the lesson dialogue and send the recording to your teacher for feedback after every lesson.

6. Practice recall. One way to keep passive learning "active" is to quiz yourself afterward. For example, after you're finished with a lesson, ask yourself, "What were some new words that I learned here?" You may not recall all, but the few that you do - you will remember them better. You can also take our multiple-choice assessments to quiz yourself on what you've learned.

7. Write out the lesson dialogue, keywords, and sample sentences. The easiest way to start writing is to... just copy things out. And you can copy out the lesson dialogue as well as the key vocab for every lesson you finish.

What about you? Are you mostly an active or passive learner? Do you focus on the productive or the receptive side of the language? While both sides have their own merits... do remember - if you want to speak the language, you will need to start speaking and using it. Listening is only 1/2 of the equation.